



# *Saint Louis Audubon*

## *Bulletin*

October, 1966

Vol. 35, No. 1

### **MANITOBA MEMORIES**

By Roy E. Coy

Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington Aves.

Friday, November 4, 1966 — 8:15 P.M.

Although still a young man, Roy Coy is already a veteran lecturer, wildlife photographer, naturalist and historian. A graduate of the State University of Iowa, he specialized in museum work and became Director of the St. Joseph Museum in St. Joseph, Missouri in 1943.

As Secretary of the St. Joseph Audubon Society for many years, he has been influential in the success of the Audubon Lecture Series in St. Joseph and a strong force in the conservation movement in Missouri.

Mr. Coy has become an authority on the Pony Express which had its first running on April 3, 1860, from St. Joseph, Mo. to Sacramento, Calif. He has followed the Pony Express Trail as nearly as possible, putting on color film what one can see along the Trail today. He is Director of the Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph, and a member of the Archaeological Advisory Board for Missouri State Parks.

What began as a fishing trip into the central part of Canada, through the province of Manitoba, has yielded another top-notch Audubon Wildlife Film. Our journey takes a west-northwesterly direction, beginning at Lake of the Woods on the Manitoba-Ontario-Minnesota border, and concluding at Cormorant Lake, in western central Manitoba. It affords a view of some of the most beautiful country in North America, and illustrates the steps taken by Manitobans to conserve their land and wildlife heritage.

Scenes of extensive areas destroyed by forest fires contrast with a visit to the Pineland Forest Nursery—the only provincial reforestation nursery in

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Manitoba. There we learn the complete process of growing coniferous trees in a nursery which transplants a million and a half trees a year—with the help of the red pine squirrels.

A highlight of the film is a stop at the Delta Waterfowl Research Station, where students from all over the world come to study problems pertaining to migratory waterfowl, found here on the central flyway.

A stop at Riding Mountain National Park discloses beaver, moose, and wood bison in their natural habitats. Audubon viewers have a chance to witness the co-operation shared between the yellow-bellied sapsucker and the ruby-throated hummingbird as they feed at the same tree.

Near Dauphin we come upon a small Ukrainian settlement where an eastern type of architecture becomes conspicuous and primitive farming methods are still used.

*Manitoba Memories* gives Audubon audiences a unique opportunity to visit one of Canada's most picturesque provinces, guided by a keen naturalist.

## **AUDUBON CLASSES OF THE PITZMAN PROGRAM**

### **JUNE 21 to AUGUST 25, 1966**

By LANIER CRIGER

A total of 525 children registered, 351 received graduating certificates, and 174 dropped out for various reasons. Our program covered a ten week period, divided into two five week terms each. As usual, we had a fine group. A good many of the children had attended our classes before and were bringing their younger brothers and sisters. We had three families who have attended classes for five years, yet they were contented to come to the same classes year after year. We try to vary the program a bit. This year we showed the films, "The Life of John James Audubon," and "Yours for A Song." The pictures were well done and the children liked them. The summer heat didn't seem to bother them a bit.

As usual, we had our Conservation session with Officer Bohanan presiding. The children love to ask questions, and he had the answers. He made quite an impression on the Junior Class. Our first term was a bit different. Instead of having the regular ornithology classes, we varied it a bit with a lesson on snakes by a herpetology student, Gerry Boehm. The children thoroughly enjoyed seeing the specimen he brought and his description of the various snakes.

Instead of having live specimen of other species, we had two mounted specimen — a redtailed hawk and a great horned owl. The children learned about the art of taxidermy as well as the life of these two birds of prey. The last day of the second term we had Miss Kate Netchvelodoff, a college major in zoology and an associate of Martin Schweig. Miss Kate treated us to a display of a barred owl, Archimedes and a young female redtailed hawk. Both birds were very cooperative; allowing the children to stroke their backs

and in this way, the children noted the difference between owl and hawk feathers.

Without the able, and faithful assistance of Miss Sarah Owen of the St. Louis Public School System, Miss Pauline Heflin, of the Brentwood School System, and Mrs. Robert Higgins, a Girl Scout leader from Webster Groves, we wouldn't have had a teaching staff. I want to thank Miss Elizabeth Golterman for lending us mounted specimen from the Audio Visual Division of the Board of Education, also Martin Schweig and his associate, Miss Kate Netchvololoff, Father James A. Mulligan of the Biology Department at St. Louis University, for sending two of his very able students — Kenneth Olson and Henry Pelzo. Mr. Olson was a graduate student at the University having returned from one of Father Mulligan's expeditions in the rain forests of South America. Mr. Pelzo was a seminary student at the University. I, especially want to thank the Public Library of Film, the Missouri Conservation Division, Gerry Boehm, Earl Hath, President of the St. Louis Audubon Society, and to the other young people who so willingly gave us their help. Most of all we want to thank Kenneth Peck for all the painstaking hours of organizing the program of which we were a part.

During the classes some of the children would get our ornithology class mixed with entomology and go dashing off in pursuit of a blue admiral or a small sulphur butterfly. Of course pandemonium reigned for a short period, but all in all, the interest in ornithology prevailed. Naturally, nothing interfered with the soda line at noon. It was fun to watch them as they gathered under the trees and open shade for their lunch period. It was fun too, to see and to hear the children as they attended the variety of classes offered by the Pitzman Program at Shaws Garden. Again quiet and dignity descends on the lovely garden of Henry Shaw, but I rather miss the enthusiastic squeals of the children. To me, it was summer at its best.



By J. EARL COMFORT

After enjoying one of the most productive spring warbler migrations on record in the St. Louis region, area birders slowed down to a more relaxed birding pace with the passing of the month of May.

Some of the best listings have been a whimbrel in St. Louis County on May 14th by Beulah Bedell, Helen Bowman and Frances Pickel, a glossy ibis by Sally Springer in Calhoun County, Illinois on June 5th, a western tanager on May 21 by Earl Comfort and Mark Peters at the Shaw's Garden Arboretum and two fish crows in Illinois below the Jefferson Barracks Bridge by Dick Anderson and Kay Stewart on July 10th.

The Illinois levees below the Jefferson Barracks Bridge also gave us cattle

egrets on various visits with a high count of 24 on one occasion. There was evidence of successful area cattle egret nesting in the form of immatures on several visits down levee. These levees again gave us Mississippi kites on several birding excursions.

Anticipated good area fall shorebirding was never realized, with the same applying to the fall warbler migration.

The many St. Louis Audubon sponsored nature hikes at the Arboretum were usually well attended and always a source of much enjoyment.

The Shaw's Garden summer vacation nature-conservation classes for youngsters co-sponsored by the St. Louis Audubon Society were, as usual, a great success.

Upon the return of the many absentee summer vacationers birding activity was stepped up considerably after Labor Day.

## **FUTURE DATES**

For the convenience of our readers we list herewith the dates of the remaining Audubon Wildlife Film lectures of the current season.

Friday, December 2, 1966\*

Friday, January 27, 1967

Friday, February 17, 1967\*

Friday, March 17, 1967

Friday, April 21, 1967

Friday, May 5, 1967\*

\*Dates thus marked will be programs which will be given in the auditorium of Clayton High School. All remaining programs will be held at Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington.

## **CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS**

December 31, 1966 — 8:00 A.M. The St. Louis Audubon Society Christmas Census group will meet at Boschertown School House, Hwy 94, St. Charles County. To reach it drive across bridge at St. Charles, follow Hwy 94 north to school house located on Hwy 94 at B on the left side of the road.

December 26, 1966 — 8:00 A.M. Pere Marquette Park Christmas Census group will meet at the home of Mrs. Richard Vasse. For further information call Sally Vasse at 786-3313 or Kathryn Arhos at ME 1-3090.

January 2, 1967 — 8:00 A.M. Webster Groves Nature Study Society Christmas Census group will meet at the Busch Wildlife Headquarters Building. For further information call James Comfort at WO 2-8373.

# AUDUBON CAMP OF THE WEST — 1966

By BARBARA MAAG

(The author of this article was given a camp scholarship by the St. Louis Audubon Society. She has recorded her experiences in a delightful article.)

Just 90 miles east of Jackson, Wyoming, on Highway 26-287 lies a beautiful wilderness area. Its mountains tower 11,000 feet. Flowing from them is Torrey Creek, a sparkling clear stream which forms several beautiful glacial lakes on its way to Wind River. It rushes and falls in the mountains and meanders as it flows through the valley. The Audubon Camp of the West lies in Torrey Creek Valley just as the stream begins to meander.

What a perfect setting to study ecological relationships. And this I did, for two wonderful weeks. The camp director was Paul Howard and assisting him were 6 instructors. The 50 campers were divided into 4 instruction groups.

Morning and afternoon field trips were taken each day. We studied plants, rocks, vertebrates and invertebrates with each different instructor. But that is not the whole story because we were really studying ecology. Each instructor somehow fit his subject area into a whole picture of the natural community, and a beautiful picture it is.

We made field trips to the badlands (where we saw Golden Eagles) to Togwotee Pass (where one first sees the Tetons) and to the petroglyphs believed to be carved by the sheepeaters 400-1200 years ago).

On trips in the camp area we learned not to look for, but to *look*. For example, just looking one might find a golden mantle ground squirrel or a bighorn sheep silhouetted against the sky, or a moose near the creek — or anything else at all. And this way one is never disappointed because one always finds something (if nothing else — mosquitoes).

Sunday and Wednesday afternoons were free times to spend in any way we wanted. I must tell you how I spent my Sunday. Another girl and I set off for Louise Lake (not the one in Canada) which was a four mile hike up Torrey Creek. We were told to keep the creek on our left and the mountain on our right and we couldn't possibly get lost. Well, you guessed it. Somehow we lost the trail and got turned around and hiked an hour before we discovered the creek was on our right. Impossible!

So we tried again and we were well rewarded. Louise Lake was a beautiful deep blue color and in the shape of an hourglass. In the background the snowfield made it a lovely sight to see.

The last day of camp was very special. Everyone hiked a ways up the creek, near the largest falls. We sat and closed our eyes and just listened. The moment was so beautiful I cannot well describe it. But I wish you, too, could experience it. And I hope you will.

## **A SHORT COURSE COVERING MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL WOODED AREAS**

We are happy that we have secured the leadership of Louis Brenner, one thoroughly experienced in his subject, to give an amplified course in the management of wooded areas. The forthcoming one will be in greater detail than the one offered last summer with study being divided as follows:

Nov. 19 — 9-12 A.M. Will concentrate on correcting soil erosion.

Dec. 10 — 9-12 A.M. Will feature forest improvement.

Both sessions will make use of the extensive acreage at the Arboretum, Gray Summit, Mo.

Participants will provide their own transportation and are cautioned to wear hiking shoes — considerable brisk walking will be necessary.

Those planning to attend should contact Lou Brenner, TAYLOR 2-2797, between hours 5:30 and 9 P. M., before November 15. The study party will assemble at the Main Gate of the Arboretum and will leave promptly at 9 A.M. for selected demonstration areas.

## **RAY HARM, WILDLIFE ARTIST**

By JUDSON McCUNE DUDLEY

A combined interest in nature and the art associated with it led me to request an interview with the creator of "Ray Harm Wildlife Art." So, I found myself on a morning in late May, following a series of rights at the Y and lefts at the crossroads through an area "quite rural" till we came to the prescribed mailbox. We turned in the lane that ended at an exquisite rustic eyree on a hilltop in the "knob country" of Kentucky, near Bardstown. We were welcomed into a gracious home to meet a perfectly charming family.

Adjourning to the working clutter of the studio, we were greeted by the buzz of a fine specimen of velvet tail timber rattler, living for the present in a plexiglass box while his portrait is being done. As his admirers know, Ray Harms' work is as precise and accurate as painting can be, for his drawings are done from close observation in the studio and field.

We talked at random of many things; of his boyhood in the Cumberlands, where he was taught the herb doctor's craft by his father; of days as a ranch hand in the West and a rodeo rider; of his art work and the organization of "Ray Harm Wildlife Art Inc."; of his present work of painting, writing and lecturing; and as advisor to the conservation agencies of Kentucky. On the subject of conservation his feelings became intense.

I soon realized I was not talking primarily with a painter of birds, but a naturalist who uses his talent to illustrate for others what they cannot or do not observe for themselves in nature. His illustrated articles in the Sunday Louisville Times are an expression of this purpose. And a more astute ob-

server is seldom met. Very little moves or grows, of which he is not aware.

It is this awareness that gives his paintings their particular quality of seeming to actually be fur and feathers. It is the awareness of the new breed of outdoorsmen that have forsaken their guns to join the fight for new attitudes and morality in the use of our environment.

As it was the nesting season and we knew we were keeping him from his work in his blinds, and our schedule called for several hundred miles of driving, we forced ourselves to depart. So, with an exchange of invitations and promises of future visits, we left, feeling that a great deal will be heard of Roy Harm, in both art and conservation.

## TEST YOUR BIRD I. Q.

1. What bird has an upturned bill?.....Avocet, godwit.
2. The bill of what bird curves downward?.....Curlew, ibis.
3. What bird, after inserting its bill in the ground, can move the end from side to side?.....Woodcock.
4. What bird swallows feathers and gives them to the young?.....Grebe.
5. What bird builds a hanging, bag-like nest?.....Oriole.
6. What terrestrial bird of western U. S. eats reptiles, such as snakes and lizards? .....Road-runner.
7. What bird repels an intruder by vomiting decayed flesh when disturbed? .....Vulture.
8. What oceanic bird is said to walk on the water?.....Petrel.
9. What small bird is well-known for its attacks on birds much larger than itself? .....Kingbird.
10. What bird, because of its antics, is known as the clown of the avian world? .....Chat.
11. What bird has a beak flattened like a knife-blade and with the lower mandible much longer than the upper?.....Black skimmer.
12. What bird is said to have a call like the sound of maniacal laughter? .....Loon.
13. What bird has its eyes so placed that both look in the same direction? .....Owl.
14. What bird, because of its weird call "aow, aow" is called the crying bird? .....Limpkin.
15. What bird has spines on its foot pads?.....Osprey.
16. What bird is said to be "monkey-faced"?.....Barn owl.
17. What bird, because of its spring call, is known as the "stake driver"? .....Bittern.
18. Which is the only hawk that wears a ruff of stiff, short feathers around its face? .....Marsh hawk.

(Our thanks to the National Council of State Garden Clubs for this article)



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